

B1

d) 0 - 30 wt.-% of a water-soluble polymer, the weight amounts a) through d) being based on anhydrous polymer composition, and the sum of these components always being 100 wt. %, wherein the powdered crosslinked polymer composition is made by continuous polymerization process wherein a parameter of the continuous polymerization process is varied by increasing and decreasing the parameter in a recurring pattern, during the polymerization process.

B2

3. (Amended) The polymer composition of claim 2, wherein the oscillation is selected from the group consisting of harmonic or anharmonic.

13. (Amended) A process for the continuous production of powdered, crosslinked polymer compositions absorbing aqueous or serous fluids, as well as blood, comprising:

a) 55 - 99.9 wt.-% of at least one polymerized, ethylenically unsaturated, polymerizable monomer which contains acid groups neutralized to at least 25 mole-%;

B3

b) 0 - 40 wt.-% of polymerized, unsaturated monomers copolymerizable with a);

c) 0.01 - 5.0 wt.-% of one or more crosslinking agents;

d) 0 - 30 wt.-% of a water-soluble polymer,

the weight amounts a) through d) being based on anhydrous polymer composition, and the sum of these components always being 100 wt. %, wherein the powdered crosslinked polymer composition is made by continuous polymerization process wherein a parameter of the continuous polymerization process is varied by

B3

increasing and decreasing the parameter in a recurring pattern, during the polymerization process.

B4

15. (Amended) The process of claim 13, wherein the oscillation is selected from the group consisting of harmonic or anharmonic.

20. (Twice Amended) An absorbent material for water and aqueous liquids comprising a polymer composition of claim 1.

21. (Twice Amended) A material comprising an absorbent to absorb body fluids comprising a polymer composition of claim 1.

B5

22. (Twice Amended) A electroconductive or light conducting cable comprising a polymer composition of claim 1.

23. (Twice Amended) A foamed sheet material comprising polymer composition of claim 1.

24. (Twice Amended) A vehicle for fertilizers or other active ingredients released over a prolonged period of time comprising a polymer composition of claim 1.

Remarks

The Office Action mailed December 19, 2002 has been carefully considered.